

News Briefs

TDY long-term parking

People deploying who live on Spangdahlem AB should leave their cars at their residence. Those living off base planning to bring cars to base must park in the long-term parking lot, near the Spangdahlem AB soft-ball field, after registering with security forces. To register, bring the current registration and a military identification card to building 215, next to the main gate. The owner or co-owner of the vehicle may register it. Call 452-7843 for more information or see battle staff directive 03-005 on the base intranet.

Jail and Bail fundraiser

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron Jail and Bail fundraiser takes place today from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wing agencies can call 452-6710 to place arrest requests. Security forces takes people tagged for arrest and jails them for \$10 per hour. Bail is posted for \$20 per hour. Detainees have phone access to raise bail money.

Dining hall closure

Enlisted members stationed at Spangdahlem AB and Bitburg Annex will receive \$262.50 per month rations in kind not available basic allowance for subsistence starting Feb. 24, unless the Mosel Dining Hall renovation project is delayed. Enlisted will receive RIKNA BAS until the dining facility reopens in September.

The 52nd Comptroller Squadron will work the pay changes. However, Feb. 24 is after the end of month cutoff for pay-affecting documents. Therefore, members may not see the change in their pay until mid-March.

Members can call the 52nd CPTS customer service desk at 452-6370 or 452-6763 if the RIKNA doesn't show on their March leave and earnings statement.

Montgomery GI Bill test program

The Montgomery GI Bill transferability test program offers officers and airmen in specific Air Force Specialty Codes the opportunity to transfer a portion of their MGIB to their dependents. Qualifying enlisted AFSCs include 1N3XX, 3E7X1 and 3C0X2. Officer AFSCs include 32E, 61S, or 62E.

In return, qualifying members agree to serve an additional four years of active-duty service by reenlisting or entering into an active-duty service commitment.

Eligible members have until the last day they can reenlist, but not later than Sept. 30 to elect to participate. However, people interested in the program are encouraged to call Kathleen Soucier, base education center guidance counselor, at 452-6063 for more information.

DMS training

The 52nd Communications Squadron offers two defense message system user training classes daily on Feb. 3-7, 10 and 11 from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. Classes take place in Spangdahlem AB building 139, Room 302. Call the 52nd CS DMS Office at 452-6694 or e-mail 52CS.DMS@spangdahlem.af.mil for details.

SSEMC meeting

The Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club meets Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Gemeindehaus in

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Eifel Times

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Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany

Jan. 31, 2003



Tech Sgt. Joe Springfield

Staff Sgt. Cindy Dorfner, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office specialist, conducts media training with about 300 airmen deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Jan. 12. During the training, Dorfner explained the importance of working with news reporters and how positive media interactions benefit military operations.

Spang deployments attract international, local reporters

Wing public affairs gives troops tips on working with news media

By 2nd Lt. Gerardo Gonzalez
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

News coverage of Spangdahlem Air Base airmen and their families has circulated worldwide as media interest heightens in light of current world events and the recent deployment of base people.

CNN, NBC and the Associated Press are some of the major outlets that have captured photographs, video and sound bites for worldwide broadcasts over television, radio and Internet news sites.

"We can expect news media interest to continue as we deploy more people and aircraft," said Maj. Melinda Morgan, 52nd Fighter Wing public affairs chief. "With this month's deployment we received good coverage across the Air Force, locally and

internationally.

"As a result, a steady stream of e-mail has flowed in from around the globe giving us support and wishing us good luck in future operations," she added.

Public support and recognition of Spangdahlem AB's airmen are just two of the benefits of media coverage, said Morgan. Another key benefit is deterrence.

"When we get in front of a camera and tell people that we're deploying to help fight the war on terrorism and they film our jets thundering up toward the clouds, it makes an impact," said Morgan. "It shows the world our capabilities and puts the bad guys on notice."

With today's instantaneous technology such as satellite access and

Internet, the world is on a 24-hour news cycle, said the public affairs chief. News is a "fast moving train" that can make or break you. It's important to stay on top of that cycle and tell your side of the story.

"The reality is that most reporters have zero to little military experience," said Morgan. "They may not understand what we're doing and why we're doing it. What can result is a broadcast of misinformation that paints a negative picture of what you're doing."

"So as public affairs professionals, we have to get our people ready to speak to the press and set the record straight."

Ideally, PA should brief Air Force members speaking to the press before-

See Media, Page 2

Meyers encourages troops to remain ready for possibility of war

By Staff Sgt. Elaine Aviles
39th Wing Public Affairs Office

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff took time out to talk to troops about the volatile situation in the gulf here Jan. 19, prior to meeting with Turkish leadership in Ankara, Turkey.

"There is nobody in their right mind that wants to go to war," Gen. Richard B. Myers said. "But if you want to change a regime, you have to put the pressure on so they do the right thing."

In this case, that pressure has taken the form of deployed service members.

"The way to pressure a regime is to build up forces, and that's what we're doing," the general said. "We've steadily built up the rest of the region, and we'll do the same here (Turkey) if we get permission."

"We'll continue to build up forces until the regime sees no choice," he said. "It's our only hope of avoiding conflict."

"But in the meantime we have to be ready," he said. "Our (leadership's) job is to make sure our military plans are sound

so we present President Bush with ultimate flexibility. We have to convince Iraq with all means available to do the right thing."

Myers said there are several factors that can determine future events.

"In my mind, there isn't a trigger event we're looking at," the chairman said. "I'll personally be paying attention to the interim report by the inspectors to the U.N. on Monday."

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Accidents

By John W. Keeler
52nd Security Forces Squadron
Reports and Analysis

Twelve Team Eifel members experienced vehicle accidents in the past week, two of which were major.

The first was on B-50 in the direction of Spangdahlem. An airman reported that as he was turning, his rear wheels began to slide. As a result, his vehicle crossed the centerline and crashed into the guardrail. There were no injuries. His vehicle sustained disabling damage and was towed from the scene.

The second was on A-60 near St. Vith, Belgium. An airman stated that as he was traveling the autobahn, his vehicle lost traction on the icy road, slid and flipped twice. Two passengers who were in the vehicle were injured and transported to the Bitburg Annex emergency room. One passenger was treated for a possible concussion and the other for skin abrasions. The vehicle sustained disabling damage and was towed from the scene.

The 10 minor accidents involved:

- Six from inattentive driving.

- One from wildlife.

- Three from backing.

In addition, 44 citations were issued.

Safety tidbit

The Eifel region weather is commonly wet throughout the winter. Practice the following tips for safer winter driving.

- The stopping ability of any vehicle is reduced on slick roads. When driving on wet road surfaces, reduce speed accordingly and double the following distance behind the car in front.

- Maintain smooth, even acceleration while traveling on slick pavement. Sudden braking can cause loss of vehicle control. Taking the foot off the accelerator quickly can have the same effect as sudden braking.

- Hydroplaning happens when standing water on a road surface is deeper than the tread depth of your tires, causing the tires to lose contact with the road. If this happens, ease back on the accelerator until contact between the tires and the road surface is restored. Hard braking can cause the loss of vehicle control.



Tech. Sgt. Adam Johnston

Score!

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM -- Tech. Sgt. Gary Walden raises his arms in celebration of a score during Super Bowl XXXVII as co-workers Tech. Sgts. Van Hess (middle) and Roy Mumej stew over the play. Airmen at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, had to rise at 3:50 a.m. Sunday to catch the live event in a recreation center at the Air Force village. All three sergeants are A-10 Thunderbolt II avionics technicians with the 104th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and are deployed from the Maryland Air National Guard. The die-hard fans watched the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat out the Oakland Raiders 48-21.

Media

Continued from Page 1

hand, said Morgan. Military members are responsible for presenting a positive and professional image. Personal opinions are not necessarily off-limits, but should be presented as such.

Legal issues do exist for military members expressing certain opinions, said Capt. Jason Lindbloom, 52nd Fighter Wing legal office.

"Commissioned officers must be very careful in offering any public criticism of our civilian leaders, especially the president, the U.S. Congress and the heads of our military departments," said Lindbloom. "Article 88 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice prohibits officers from using 'contemptuous words' against these officials."

Enlisted members are not exempt from consequences if they openly challenge leaders or their decisions.

"Article 88 applies to officers, however enlisted members can still have administrative action taken against them if they insult our leaders or publicly challenge our policies," said

Media do's and don'ts

The Air Force can't accomplish its mission without the support of an informed American public. Military members should refer to the following guidelines when speaking with the media.

Do ...

- Be professional and polite.
- Take your time. Answer one question at a time.
- Be brief and concise.
- Stay within your area of expertise.
- Remember everything is "on the record."

Don't ...

- Lie or speculate. If you don't know, say so.
- Use military jargon.
- Answer "what if" questions.
- Release the following -- number of aircraft, rules of engagement, future plans, weaknesses, shortfalls or operations specifics.
- Release until declassified - specific deployment location, duration.

Lindbloom.

Team-Eifel members approached by news media outside of a work environment can refer them to the base PA office, said Morgan.

"We're the official spokespeople for the base," said Morgan. "But we're

always looking for opportunities to get Team Eifel members to speak to the media. In fact, there will probably be opportunities to interact with news media organizations at some deployed locations." (The base public affairs office can be reached at 452-6012)

CJCS

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"While it will be important, that alone won't trigger war. But there's other things in the news, like finding artillery shells and documents on a nuclear program ...we'll have to wait and see."

The question on many people's minds is how long can the military wait at such a high state of readiness.

"If it's important enough, a heck of a long time," Myers said. "People are fired up, charged up, whether airmen, soldiers, sailors, Marines, civilians or Turkish nationals. They're ready to do whatever called on to do."

While most of the world remains focused on Iraq, the chairman said leadership hasn't forgotten about the situation in North Korea.

"We're trying to work through diplomatic channels," he said. "Since we haven't seen any major preparation for war, we have no intent to move forces around."

General Myers said the government will continue to watch closely.

"When I was a captain stationed at Kadena (Air Base, Japan) during the Vietnam War, I attended a big formal party," he said. "The wing commander stood up and told us there was good news, no deployments in the foreseeable future. The next day, we were heading out."

The lesson he learned was that the future is uncertain, and people have to be prepared for anything.

But this uncertainty can be stressful, particularly in forward-deployed locations like Incirlik, the general said.

"Don't underestimate what you do," he said. "While there are pluses and minuses of being forward deployed, what you do is so important ... you bring peace and stability."

The chairman said the reserve components, especially the members with full-time civilian jobs, have it particularly hard.

"We're continuing to work to ensure there's no undue burden on our Guardsmen and Reservists," he said. "As a former Guardsman himself, the President understands reservists' situation in a personal way."

This appreciation extends to all military people, whether active duty or reserve.

Briefs

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Spangdahlem. Reservation deadline is Feb. 10. Call Chris Faull at 06565-933347 or e-mail SSMC2002-(no hyphen)@yahoo.com to reserve seats.

Spouses groups meet

The 52nd Logistics Readiness Squadron Spouses Group meets Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in Spangdahlem AB building 103. All 52nd LRS spouses are encouraged to attend.

The 52nd Communications Squadron Spouses Group meets Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Bitburg Annex Chapel. Event includes a potluck Italian dinner.

Used luggage wanted

The 52nd Security Forces Squadron military working dog section needs used luggage for detection training. Give donations to a security forces member at Spangdahlem AB building 362 or call Staff Sgt. Brent Sanders at 452-6511 or 452-6716 for pick up.

Spring bazaar

The Spangdahlem Spouses and Enlisted Members Club seeks food vendors for the spring bazaar, taking place March 14-16. The first 14 signed and paid applications received by Feb. 23 will be accepted. Call Master Sgt. Craig Sweeney at 06575-901785 or Diana Frisch at 06563-960892 for more information.

Passport office closure

The 52nd Mission Support Squadron Passport Office is closed Feb. 17-24. The office opens Feb. 19 and 21 for emergency assistance. Call 452-6813 for more information.

TRICARE and travel

Family members returning to the United States for more than 30 days should find out their TRICARE coverage options before traveling. Visit the TRICARE service center in Bitburg Annex building 67 or Spangdahlem AB building 137, or call Staff Sgt. Stephanie Petrie at 452-8122 for more information.

Shuttle bus route change

The base shuttle will not stop at Dormitories 227 and 332 through June due to road construction.



Airman 1st Class Karolina Gmyrek
Members of the 52nd Maintenance Group Munitions Support Squadron Liaison Office make up this week's Top Saber Team.

Top Saber Team

Unit name: 52nd Maintenance Group Munitions Support Squadron Liaison Office

Unit responsibilities: The 52nd MUNSSLO serves as the technical link between Spangdahlem Air Base and munitions support squadron operations. As part of the 52nd Maintenance Group, the office conducts nuclear surety MUNSS assistance visits for the 52nd Fighter Wing's three munitions support squadrons: 52nd MUNSS, Kleine Brogel Air Base, Belgium; 752nd MUNSS, Volkel Air Base, Netherlands; and 852nd MUNSS, Buechel Air Base, Germany. The MUNSSLO team serves as technical advisors to the 52nd MXG commander. The team also provides guidance and support to more than 400 active-duty members in 20 Air Force specialties at the three MUNSS units.

Number of members: Two

Team's latest contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: In addition to management oversight and guidance to munitions support squadron operations, the MUNSSLO office acts as the gatekeeper for MUNSS units. As such, it approves MUNSS access request, interprets and help implement nuclear surety guidance within the wing. Additionally, the team publishes the highly informative and well-received "MUNSSLO Monthly," a MUNSS newsletter that reports and discusses technical issues and news from all four U.S. Air Forces in Europe units, including Ghedi Air Base, Italy.

Team's other contributions throughout the year: The office led a team of NATO civil engineer members to identify US- and NATO-funded facility projects at the three northern-tier munitions support squadrons. The 10-person delegation gathered vital facts and information, setting the standard for all USAFE MUNSS infrastructure resurrection; geared toward an \$8 million upgrade proposal. The team also coordinated and played host to a major command status-of-training and resource-reporting conference.

Eifel Salutes

52nd Medical Group

The hard work and dedication exhibited by **Pamela Salvio** is just what the doctor ordered at the Medical Operations Squadron. **Staff Sgt. Amelia Newton-Ingram**, **Airman 1st Class Herodina Lu** and **Rosalinda Speaks** not only managed regularly scheduled appointments at the Spangdahlem dental clinic, but "tooth" be told, extra deployment exams as well. Good work! **Maj. David Duque** and **Andrea Fritzen**, 52nd Aerospace Medicine Squadron Public Health Flight, received kudos for hosting a smallpox meeting with German medical authorities. Hats off to the **52nd Medical Group** and **52nd Fighter Wing Support Staff** who felt the "need for speed" in processing for MDG unit type codes in less than nine hours from notification!

52nd Operations Group

Responsible for getting the 23rd Fighter Squadron people deployment ready (and excelling at it) is **Staff Sgt. Curtis Jackson** ... and taking care of those who excell is **Tech. Sgt. Patricia Wilson** who superbly stayed on top of over 60 award packages for the group. The 81st Fighter Squadron completed a 3-day surge in which they accomplished their 120-sortie goal. The squadron's leadership thanks the following: airmen of the **52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron**, the **81FS Panthers**

KB and Jumel and the Griffins, Monkey, Haze and Gumby, Stingers and Hawks flight folks with the **Mountain** and the **Galleys** and **Chief Master Sgt. George Chambers** and the rest of the "Fire-Dawgs."

52nd Maintenance Group

Senior Airman Melissa Hudson showed one good turn deserves another, as she handily collected and organized board packages for several quarterly and annual awards connected to the 52nd Maintenance Group recognition program. Bravo to **Staff Sgt. Bobbie Escobedo**, who, despite recent surgery, stepped up to the plate following the departure of her supervisor. What a difference a day made for **Master Sgt. Victor Cotton**, whose turn-around in less than 24 hours on a critical 52nd MXG tasking resolved a minor crisis.

52nd Mission Support Group

A hearty Air Force Sergeant's Association "thank you" goes to the **chapel staff** for their divine hospitality and continuing support of Saber Chapter 1681 monthly meetings. A big salute goes to the **52nd Communications Squadron Network Infrastructure work center**, which keeps Spangdahlem's network optimized 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **Kudos to all, Team Eifel salutes you!**

(Compiled by Airman 1st Class Amaani F. Lyle, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office)

Selective program augments leader's aircraft support savvy

By **1st Lt. Dani Burrows**
Aeronautical Systems Center Public Affairs Office

Spangdahlem Air Base demands a high operations tempo and a constant evolution in mission capability. Avionics needs are no exception, and a unique program exists in which acquisitions officers get the chance to hone their skills in supporting the war fighter through first-hand experience.

First Lt. Stephen O'Brien, 52nd Component Maintenance Squadron Propulsion Flight commander, volunteered for an assignment here following acceptance into the acquisition and logistics experience exchange tour located at the Aeronautical Systems Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. ALEET is a competitive career-broadening exchange program that allows acquisition officers to experience a three-year maintenance tour with a guaranteed return to the acquisition career field, according to Capt. Gary Salmans, Air Force Personnel Center, acquisition officer assignments branch. The program targets company grade officers with three to six years of commissioned service.

First Lt. Stephen O'Brien spent his first two years in the Air Force as a program manager at ASC's F-16 and C-17 System Program Offices. In June, he made a perma-

nent change of station move to Spangdahlem AB.

"Spangdahlem's F-16s will soon undergo modification and fielding of the new avionics package. As a maintenance officer, I'll have the unique opportunity of living with a system that I once was associated with," said O'Brien.

Acquisition officers bring a background of knowledge in the depot and acquisition process that most maintainers do not possess, said Maj. Geoffrey Bacon, 52nd CMS commander and O'Brien's supervisor. "This can positively impact the supply chain portion of the maintenance complex," he said.

"Acquisition is a key component to the success of the maintenance troops on the line," said Bacon. "Good decisions in the acquisition world from folks with an understanding of maintenance helps us succeed."

"This experience has definitely shown me the critically of the acquisition force and the far-reaching impact of the work done at ASC," said O'Brien. "To see first-hand how parts availability of the smallest component can have a major impact on mission capability. Likewise, that reliability and maintainability of a part can mean the difference in working 12-hour shifts or weekend duty."



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
Master Sgt. Michael A. Bradford, 52nd Maintenance Group Command Section information management superintendent, is this week's Top Saber Performer.

Top Saber Performer

Name: Master Sgt. Michael A. Bradford

Unit: 52nd Maintenance Group Command Section

Duty title: Information management superintendent

Hometown: Chicago

Years in Service: 20

Nominee's contributions to 52nd Fighter Wing mission success: Bradford spearheaded a group suspense tracking log upgrade, which saves more than 100 hours of data logging monthly. This has proven to be an excellent administrative tool, said Capt. Angel Lozada, group executive. Additionally, he set up the program so maintenance squadrons can now access the log with the click of a button and monitor their progress as they respond to suspenses. Group commander suspense reports are now easily generated in a fraction of the time it took previously. Data can also be counted on as accurate and up to date.

Off-duty volunteerism and professional development pursuits: I'm currently enrolled in the senior NCO Academy correspondence course. I'm also an active member of squadron VISTA club and Spangdahlem Top 3 Association

What do you do for fun? Or, What's a fun thing you've done lately? I enjoy traveling around Europe, hiking the local trails, playing board games and going to the movies.

What do you like most about being stationed here? The opportunity to travel around Europe.

What's one thing you'd like to see changed or improved at Spangdahlem Air Base?

Since the base is used to test and prove new ideas, I'd like the base to purchase electric vehicles versus gasoline, it could save money and the environment.

Balancing one checkbook on two fronts tricky act

Base financial counselor suggests two books based spending plan

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Jennifer Lindsey
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Balancing a household budget can be challenging enough from home, but what's the best way to juggle finances when a deployment is added to the equation?

For many years, the military used to leave finances to the military member to figure out on their own, stepping in only when the checks started bouncing. Fortunately, today financial counseling is one of the many benefits members can and should tap into, according to Bill Triplett, base personal financial counselor.

When dealing with deployed finances, Triplett suggests members develop a workable plan in steps.

Know what you're worth

The first step is to establish an accurate checkbook balance.

"It's important for people to know how much money they have in their account, so they'll know how much they can spend and save," he said. "If the checkbook isn't balanced, let's get it balance and keep it balanced. Bring me two or three months worth of statements and I'll balance it for you and then I'll teach how it's done. The issue isn't usually not knowing how to balance it, but not knowing the tricks to make it work."

Develop a plan

Next, Triplett suggests members establish a household and deployment spending plan. Developing budgets, or spending plans as Triplett prefers to call them, are the financial counselor's specialty.

According to Triplett, the plan should realistically cover the total costs of all monthly household bills and expenses, including grocery and auto care cost averages. The expenses are deducted from the total monthly income, which should include per diem, and hostile fire pay (\$165 per month) and combat zone tax exemptions, if applicable.

Also, if family members plan to go to the United States for 31 days or longer, in accordance with Department of Defense financial management regulations, subtract the cost of living allowance from the total income the month after they leave, said Senior Airman Reico Henley, 52nd Financial Services Flight customer service specialist. Henley, or any finance customer service specialist can assist members with questions about their deployed income.

Establish a deployed account

Thirdly, Triplett suggests families establish a deployed account for purchasing hygiene products and other needs in the field. This will alleviate any confusion, which typically results when spouses at different locations try to spend from the same household account, said Triplett.

"I've never seen this work - it's always a disaster," he said



Spending plan worksheets lay on a table ready for the next personal financial counseling appointment as Bill Triplett offers an airman financial advice over the phone in the background. Members seeking financial guidance can call Triplett at 452-6422 or visit his office in Spangdahlem Air Base building 307.

based on his 12 years of financial counseling experience. "I recommend the service member establish a savings account with automatic teller machine access or a separate checking account. The spouse can either deposit an agreed upon amount (based on the household spending plan) into the account monthly or members can set up an allotment through the finance office."

Additionally, Triplett suggests spouses determine who will balance the household checkbook. As an active-duty Army retiree, Triplett suggests, if possible, the spouse at home does this because of the unpredictability of deployed demands.

"I can help spouses who aren't familiar with check writing and checkbook balancing," he said. "I can also continue working with the spouse until he or she is comfortable enough to do it themselves."

Common pitfalls

The single most common mistake military members make when preparing for deployment is not making bill-paying

arrangements before heading down range, said Triplett. If nothing else, members should make a complete list of all their bills, including the agency name, mailing address, account number, average amount due and due date, he said. This way, the member can pay their bills from their deployed location. Also, the list is helpful for whoever may be taking care of household finances.

The second most common mistake is not paying debts until a bill is received, said Triplett.

"In the post office, I heard an airman say, 'I 'didn't get my Club card bill, so I don't have to pay it this month.' Well, that's the wrong bill to say that about. We have a responsibility as consumers, if we owe money, to pay that money on time. We don't have to receive a bill to pay a bill. The Club card, if delinquent, charges a \$15 late payment fee. That was definitely the wrong one for that airman to ignore."

Simplify

Some accounts, such as the Military Star card and Club card, offer a "freezing" option. Using this option, members deploying for more than 90 days don't have to make payments and finance charges stop until the member returns. Another option is to apply for a reduced interest rate for the duration of the deployment.

Triplett also suggests members consider paying rent and electric bills automatically through Community Bank or Services Credit Union. The service costs only \$1.

Single members who live alone and are going on deployment for 90 days or longer can request the telephone company turn off their phone for the duration of their deployments, said Triplett. With orders, phone service is restored free of charge upon return.

Triplett can also help develop a spending plan for deploying members interested in paying off their debts while away.

"Because deployed members are making extra money and don't need spending cash for entertainment and such, we can set up a plan so when they return, they're debt free," offered Triplett.

Web sites and phone numbers

Members can visit the myPay Web site at [https://myPay.-\(no hyphen\)dfas.mil](https://myPay.-(no hyphen)dfas.mil) to view, save and print their pay account information. The IRS Web site at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf for a copy of the "Armed Forces Tax Guide."

Military Star card deployment options are available at www.aafes.com/pa/news/02news/02-123.htm. First USA encourages all overseas Air Force club members who have questions to call their 24-hour card member service representatives. For overseas, dial toll free by punching in the local access code and then calling 800-1112265, except for Turkey and Italy. For Turkey, call 0800-151-0662. For Italy, call 8008-72528.

Visit the Deutsche Telekom English language Web site at <http://www.telekom.de/dtag/home/portal/0,14925,E,00.html>.

Members deployed to combat zones in 2002 get tax breaks

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance office opens Monday to make April 15 deadline less taxing on military community

Military members serving in designated combat zones supporting the global war against terrorism can get a tax break from Uncle Sam. However, 52nd Fighter Wing members don't have to figure out what they do or don't owe on their own.

Spangdahlem Air Base Volunteer Income Tax Assistance specialists begin providing free tax filing services on base Monday. Additionally, deployed spouses have two options as to when they'd prefer to file their income taxes: they can wait until they return or a spouse can file them if the deployed member signed an IRS Form 2848, said David Britt, VITA Tax Shelter director.

"Deployed members have up to 180 days to file their taxes when they return," he said. "They don't have to sign anything, the extension is automatic."

Britt provides tax shelter services year round.

This year, the volunteer tax shelter may open for two seasons - the current one to meet the April 15 deadline and another to meet returning deployed member needs, said Britt.

Members who prefer to grant their spouse power of attorney to file joint taxes in their absence can fill out an IRS Form 2848 at the base legal office before deploying.

"It's a quick process," said Britt. "With the form, a spouse can sign for the deployed member."

Under the new tax break, depending upon rank, eligible servicemembers can exclude from federal income tax either all or some of their active-duty pay — and certain other pays — earned in any month during service in a designated combat zone, according to the "Armed Forces' Tax Guide." Current combat zones are Afghanistan, specified parts of the Kosovo area and the Persian Gulf region.

Additionally, servicemembers in several other areas specified in law as "qualified hazardous-duty areas" are eligible for the same tax breaks. Bosnia-Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Croatia have been listed since November 1995.

Servicemembers who serve one or more days in a designated combat zone are entitled to federal tax exclusion benefits for that entire month, according to the IRS. The downloadable Armed Forces' Tax Guide for 2002 can be accessed on the Web at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p3.pdf. It lists many, but not all, designated combat zones.

The VITA office is located in building 129. It's open Monday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for appointments only. It's also open for walk-in service or appointments Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to noon. The Bitburg Annex VITA office is located in building 2001. It's open Tuesday and Thursday from 5-8 p.m. for walk-in service and appointments. Call 452-6572 to schedule appointments. (Localized article by Gerry J. Gilmore American Forces Press Service)

Combat zones

A combat zone is any area the President of the United States designates by executive Order as an area in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. Areas qualifying under 2002 income tax rules include:

Afghanistan area

Kosovo area

■Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

■Albania

■The Adriatic Sea

■The Ionian Sea -- north of the 39th parallel, including airspace.

Persian Gulf area

■The total land of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Hazardous duty zones

■Bosnia and Herzegovina

■Croatia and Macedonia



Community Mailbox

PWOC meeting

Protestant women of the chapel meet Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Spangdahlem AB chapel. Members will discuss the upcoming spring retreat, taking place March 7-9. Call Maj. Elaine Washington at 452-8126 for more information.

One-man show

Jeff Benoit, a one-man drama act, performs Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. in the Spangdahlem Elementary School cafeteria. The show is open to the local military community. Call the school office at 452-6881 for more information.

Playgroups

A preschool playgroup meets each Tuesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Spangdahlem AB military family housing building 409-C. A playgroup meets in the Bitburg Annex temporary lodging facility, building 2. The playgroups offer parents and children an opportunity to meet other military families, build a support network and learn about Eifel region family activities. Call Michele Linnen at 452-8279 for more information.

BHS conferences

Bitburg High School parent and teacher conferences take place Wednesday. Call 452-9202 or 452-9337 to schedule an appointment.

Student mentors needed

Spangdahlem Elementary School officials seek student mentoring program volunteers to offer academic assistance a minimum of one hour weekly. Teachers provide assignments and materials. Call Barbara Triplett at 452-6881 or 452-6170 for more information.

Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed at the Spangdahlem AB and Bitburg Annex Airman's Attic, Loan Locker, in schools and at other base agencies. No experience is necessary. Base volunteers may qualify for recognition program benefits. Call Kelly Childs, base volunteer resource program manager, at 452-9491 for more information.

Community bank closure

The Spangdahlem AB Community Bank branch is open Feb. 12 from noon to 4 p.m. and Feb. 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for monthly training. The Bitburg Annex branch is



Airman 1st Class Karolina Gmyrek

Baby Talk

Michelle Reedy, 52nd Services Squadron, brings her baby, Allison, to Spangdahlem Air Base library storytime to show program participants Erica and Lauren O'Neill. Storytime takes place each Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the base library and each Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Bitburg Annex library. Both locations seek volunteers to help with various library programs. Call Kelly Childs, base volunteer resource program manager, at 452-9491 for more information.

open Feb. 12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Feb. 13 from noon to 4 p.m.

Family support news

The following workshops take place in Spangdahlem AB building 307. Call 452-9491 for details.

- Preseparation consultation, Monday from 9-10:30 a.m.
- Federal employment workshop, Tuesday from 9-11 a.m.
- Predeployment briefing for active-duty and family members, Tuesday from 1-2 p.m.
- Home buying, Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.
- Welcome bags for newcomers, Wednesday from 8:30-11:30 a.m.
- Resume writing, Wednesday from 5-7 p.m.
- German bills made easy, Thursday from 8-9:30 a.m.
- Sponsor training, Thursday from 10-11 a.m.
- Local employment workshop, Thursday from 1-3 p.m.
- IRA workshop, Thursday from 6-8 p.m.

The following workshops take place in Bitburg Annex building 2001. Call 452-9491 for details.

- Creative critters preschool playtime, Monday and Feb. 10 from 10-11 a.m.
- Communication series, part one of a two-part series, Wednesday from 6-8 p.m.

CAC news

The following events take place in the base community activity center, building 124. Call 452-7381 for details.

- Chess club meets Saturday. People interested in learning how to play up to advanced players are encouraged to attend.
- A six week German language class begins Feb. 3 at 12:15 p.m. Call to register.
- Baby photo contest takes place Feb. 3-7. Photos of babies up to 2-years-old qualify. The public votes on favorite baby expressions Feb. 8-10. Prizes awarded for first, second and third place.
- Local area network party takes place Feb. 8 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Participants should bring their computer and headphones. Cost is \$5 per person.
- Valentine's Day singing telegrams are available Feb. 14 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$15 per song, \$40 for three songs. Call to schedule.

Talent show

A youth talent show takes place March 6 in the base theater. Youth ages 6-18 are encouraged to enter in vocal, instrumental, performing arts and dance categories. Registration deadline is Feb. 10. Call 452-7381 for details.

Dinner and dancing

The King Citadel Military Lodge 163 Annual Black and White Ball takes place Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Spang Club. Social

hour takes place at 6 p.m. The event features a live jazz band, a buffet and after-party dance. Tickets cost \$30 each or \$50 per couple. Call 01609-8435366 or 01609-5021785 to reserve seats.

Staying fit

The Health and Wellness Center offers a class on cooking for diabetics Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. in Spangdahlem AB building 130. For more information, call 452-9355.

Preschooler playtime

Mothers of Preschoolers meets Feb. 10 at 9:30 a.m. in Spangdahlem AB building 139. Meetings take place the second and fourth Monday of each month. MOPS features crafts and guest speakers for mothers while children are cared for on the premises. Call the chapel office at 452-6711 for more information.

Chapel services news

The Catholic Mass and Religious Education schedule has changed. Call the chapel services office at 452-6711 for more information.

Spangdahlem AB Chapel

- Mass, Sunday at 9:15 a.m.
 - Religious education, Sunday at 10:45 a.m. in building 135
 - Communion service, Wednesday and Thursday at 11:45 a.m.
 - Mass, Friday at 11:45 a.m.
- #### Bitburg Annex Chapel
- Religious education, Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Bitburg Middle School
 - Confessions, Sunday before 11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass
 - Mass, Sunday at 11:30 a.m.
 - Mass, Tuesday at 9:15 a.m.

BES PTA meeting

The Bitburg Elementary School Parent, Teacher Association meets Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Families are encouraged to attend and make Valentine's Day cards for deployed troops. A guest speaker will talk about family deployment concerns.

Reading group

The Bitburg Annex Library reading group meets Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. in the library to discuss the book, "Henry and Clara," by Thomas Mallon. Call 452-9056 for more information.

Toastmasters meeting

The Eifel Toastmasters meet Feb. 8 at 10:30 a.m. in the Spangdahlem AB Chapel. The group meets the second Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and the fourth Wednesday at 5 p.m. of each month. Call Tricia Vadney at 452-3179 for more information.

Der Markt

Advertisement policy

Der Markt is for the personal resale of items by military and civilian employees and their families. Items such as advertisements for rental property won't be published due to funded paper restraints. Ads should be 35 words or less and customers are limited to no more than two ads per week. Ads must be typed or printed legibly and turned into the public affairs office, building 23, by close of business Wednesday, **10 days prior to publication**. Ads can also be e-mailed to publicity@spangdahlem.af.mil or sent via fax to 452-5254. Having ads in by deadline does not guarantee publication. Ads for services generating regular income will not be published. The ads must include the sponsor's name and telephone number. Ads not meeting these requirements, including those exceeding the designated word limits, will not be printed. The *Eifel Times* staff reserves the right to edit ads.

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Col. Stephen Mueller

Accessing Direct Line

The Direct Line program is a
way to get answers to questions
you still have after using your
chain of command.

Direct Lines of general
interest will be published in the
Eifel Times and may be edited or
paraphrased for brevity or clarity.
Submit your Direct Line via:

■DirectLine@spangdahlem.
af.mil

■Mailed to 52nd FW/PA,
Unit 3680 Box 220, APO AE
09126

■To PA in building 23.
■Concerns may also be sent
via fax to 452-5254.

Anonymous inputs are
accepted. To receive a personal
response you must include your
name and phone number. Call the
Eifel Times at 452-5244 for more
information.

Sortie
Scoreboard

Unit Goal Flown

22FS	76	30
23FS	69	104
81FS	79	146

Sorties flown
Jan. 20-26

Viewpoint

Jan. 31, 2003

Page 6

Information assurance

Complacency with classified can cost lives

By Staff Sgt. Jo Eugenio
52nd Communications Squadron
Computer Security Office

"The unprofessionalism today is as bad as I
have ever seen it in terms of the handling of clas-
sified information. It is serious. It is dangerous.
And it is beyond my comprehension how a person
who has been cleared for the handling of classi-
fied information can be so irresponsible and cal-
lous to the lives that can be lost, and still provide
that information to people who are not cleared for
handling it."

These are the words of Secretary of Defense
Donald H. Rumsfeld spoken at the Fort Hood
town hall meeting August 2002.

A lot of the military's actions are based on
intelligence. If such information is handled care-
lessly, lives may be endangered. We're not only in
a business where such mistakes can cost someone
their job or millions of dollars; we're in a busi-
ness where if the job isn't done and done right,
someone could get hurt or even die. Just look
around at the people at stake — it's everyone on
this base. All it takes is an inadvertent disclosure
of information to unauthorized personnel.

A classified message incident or CMI occurs
when classified information is introduced acci-
dentally or intentionally into an unclassified com-
puter system. This information is now compro-
mised because unclassified machines are not
made to safeguard classified information. More
protection is required but not provided.
Information, our information, is now in jeopardy.
Information is knowledge and knowledge is
power. In the case of a CMI, our power, our abili-

ty to accomplish the mission, can be compro-
mised. To use the analogy of a football game, if
the opposing team has our playbook or even just
parts of it, we've lost the advantage of surprise.
Our loss is practically inevitable.

CMIs are caused by one thing — a lapse of
responsibility. This is most obvious when disclo-
sure of classified information is intentional. This
is illegal, plain and simple. Accidental CMIs

"The most common reason acci-
dental CMIs occur is inattention.
A person deals with classified
information so often it becomes
common and routine. It's so habit-
ual that he or she stops caring or
paying notice. Another term for
this is complacency."

result from a lapse of responsibility in training
and attention. Some people just don't know how
to handle classified information. This is a poor
excuse since training is mandatory. At a mini-
mum, every military member must undergo secu-
rity training annually. The 52nd Communications
Squadron takes it further by making it a quarterly
requirement.

If you work with classified information, you
should know how to handle it. The most common
reason accidental CMIs occur is inattention. A
person deals with classified information so often

it becomes common and routine. It's so habitual
that he or she stops caring or paying notice.
Another term for this is complacency.

The result is a waste of everyone's time and
money. There were 10 CMIs at Spangdahlem Air
Base in 2002. Base members committed eight of
them. Network professionals spent 119 hours
ensuring classified information was isolated and
sanitized from unclassified systems. This doesn't
include the additional downtime experienced by
users.

A CMI may also force the shutdown of the
base e-mail system, denying service for an inde-
terminate amount of time. This has two effects
leading to the same outcome: work stoppages and
communications disruption. This is an obvious
vulnerability. In a CMI, we become more suscep-
tible to an attack.

Fortunately, CMIs are preventable. With dili-
gence and awareness, network users can keep an
incident from taking place. Remain professional
and in the know of what you're doing. Use of
classified information demands nothing less than
unwavering attention. You've had the training.
There's no reason not to apply it.

If you suspect an incident, contact your work-
group manager or unit information assurance
manager immediately. CMIs are a weakness;
they're a threat to information assurance and our
information superiority. It's up to every network
user to prevent such incidents from happening
and to minimize its effect upon occurrence.

Keep in mind what's at stake.

Life lessons

Junior officer warns of three common career pitfalls

By 1st Lt. Beth Dowty
52nd Component Maintenance Squadron

I was generously offered the opportunity to
submit an editorial into the *Eifel Times* and I was
hesitant because I don't have the wisdom or expe-
rience of a seasoned commander. I have a different
perspective, that of a young person in a leadership
position, a position where I see the gamut of per-
sonal problems and the disciplinary actions that go
with them. Yet because of my age and rank, peo-
ple tell me things and do things around me that I
don't think they'd do around their commander.

The purpose of this spot in the newspaper is for
commanders to share their wisdom. I can't prom-
ise wisdom, but I can share the three pitfalls I have
seen cause problems from heartache to judicial
punishment during my short time in the Air Force.

Bad company

"We see our faces in a mirror, and ourselves
through our friends." This proverb, though seem-
ingly cryptic, has a clear meaning. If haven't
already, we will develop the same character and
the same behaviors of those we spend the most
time with.

It's important to choose friends, associates, and
romantic interests with good character, goals and
values. A violent, angry or undisciplined person-be-

ing a casual friend or even a spouse-can destroy
someone's career, or worse, their life.

A person's attitude toward work can pass along
to his friends. It concerns me when I see our ambi-
tious, positive airmen befriend people who brag
about their letters of reprimand.

Likewise, "as iron sharpens iron, so one man
sharpens another" (another proverb). Good com-
panions can make a person better too. People who
choose friends who are successful, who have goals
and who have a positive attitude usually succeed
as well. They pave a path of excellence for them-
selves.

Drinking too much

I define drinking too much as drinking past that
fine point where you begin making choices that
you wouldn't sober, and for some people it doesn't
take much. I know this is a controversial point, so
just consider the pros and cons.

The pros of drinking too much are that it might
be fun and it might be relaxing. The cons of drink-
ing too much are it might not be fun, but it might
be really awful. It could mean getting into an argu-
ment or a physical fight. It could mean illness. It
could mean saying something regretful, or worse,
doing something regretful. It will certainly mean

losing credibility in others' eyes. How do people
talk about the intoxicated person at work the next
day?

It could mean getting in trouble at work. It
could mean making criminal choices like stupidly
getting in a car and killing someone. It could mean
reporting in to the wing commander.

There are many fun, relaxing, and constructive
activities to do instead of drinking. We have all of
Europe to tour here and more.

Idleness and unclear values

It's very important to have goals and stay
focused on them. A lot of avoidable trouble starts
out with a group of bored people. It's equally
important to have values — a proper understand-
ing of right and wrong. Values keep people from
making bad decisions and provide strength during
difficult times.

I would also encourage anyone caught up in
these things to stop, pick a goal and walk a
straight line toward it.

Choose successful, positive people as friends
and mentors. Strive to be the best at whatever you
do and always be your own harshest critic. Be
mindful of your ways, making sure they are honest
and right. This is a proven path to excellence.

Movies

All movies play at 7 p.m. unless indicated. More synopsis information is available at www.aafes.com/ems/default.asp.

Bitburg Castle

Today

Star Trek: Nemesis (PG-13)

The Romulan Empire is thrown into disarray when Shinzon murders the entire senate of the Romulus homeworld. Now, the mad man wants to use the Enterprise crew to incite a revolution. (Violence and sexual content.)

Saturday

Star Trek: Nemesis

Sunday

The Lord of the Rings, Part I: Fellowship of the Ring (PG-13, 3 p.m.)

Set in mythic Middle Earth, a Hobbit named Frodo inherits a magic ring. The dark Lord Sauron lusts for the powers that the magic ring holds. In his effort to thwart Sauron, Frodo recruits the fellowship of a wizard, an elf, a dwarf and others on a mission to destroy the ring. (Violence.)

The Ring (PG-13)

Rachel uncovers a video tape, which may be linked to the deaths of local teen-agers. Urban legend says that whoever watches the tape will die in seven days. After she and her son watch the tape she realizes she's running out of time. (Thematic elements, disturbing images, language and drug references.)

Closed Monday and Tuesday

Wednesday

I Spy (PG-13)

A secret agent recruits a professional boxer to help him recover the U.S. government's prototype spy plane. (Violence, sexual content and language.)

Thursday

Punch-Drunk Love (R)

Barry is a quiet, shy, socially awkward man who undergoes a powerful transformation when Lena walks into his life. Lena has an instinctive attraction to him, a nonjudgmental attitude and unconditional love. (Language, sexual content.)

Spangdahlem Skyline

Today

My Big Fat Greek Wedding (PG)

Ian asks Toula to marry him. He is tall, handsome and definitely not Greek. Toula knows that if he can pass muster with her crazy relatives, their big Greek wedding will be a piece of cake. (Sensuality and language.)

Lord of the Rings, Part II: The Two Towers (PG-13, 10 p.m.)

The second book of the Tolkien trilogy. Hobbit Frodo braves great dangers in an attempt to destroy an evil ring. (Violence.)

Saturday

Lord of the Rings, Part II: The Two Towers

8 Mile (R, 10:30 p.m.)

A young white Detroit rapper learns how to deal with his emotions and anger through music. (Language, sexuality, violence and drug use.)

Sunday

Lord of the Rings, Part II: The Two Towers

Monday

Moonlight Mile (PG-13)

When Joe Nast's plans for marriage, he wants to be the man he believes everyone wants him to be, but when another woman unexpectedly enters his life, he's quickly torn between fulfilling his new role and following his heart. (Sensuality and language.)

Tuesday

Lord of the Rings, Part II: The Two Towers

Closed Wednesday and Thursday

Times and movies are subject to change.
For the most current information,
call 452-9441.



Chess wiz Brian Shelton, 12-year-old Spangdahlem Middle School student, squares off against civilian equipment specialist Johnny Watts, 52nd Maintenance Group. Shelton was not quite age 4 before trouncing his first adult opponent. Steven Watts, a 12-year-old Spangdahlem Middle School student, watches on as his father faces defeat.

And a child shall lead them ...

Youth learn strategy, how to ace adults at base chess club

Story and photos by
Airman 1st Class Amaani F. Lyle
52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office

Johnny Watts, 52nd Maintenance Group civilian equipment specialist concentrates on a 64-square board dotted with plastic black and white pieces. He sits across from his opponent, who calmly moves a piece from one square to another and says, "Checkmate."

Watts has lost this chess game. Too bad the victor isn't even old enough to get into an R-rated movie.

Brian Shelton, a 12-year-old student at Spangdahlem Middle School, said he's been playing chess since he was age 3, and put his first adult to shame at age 3 1/2. The pre-teen said he's predisposed to be a formidable opponent, since his father, Tech. Sgt. Glenn Shelton, 52nd Civil Engineering Squadron, is one of the Spangdahlem Air Base chess club's founding members and instructors.

"We talked to services and were able to acquire a number of boards and (tournament-style) clocks once we got enough participation," said the elder Shelton.

Shelton, along with Senior Airman David Santosuosso, a 52nd Communications Squadron computer operator, divides students of various ages and skill level and offers free lessons in basic movements as well as strategy development for the centuries-old board game.

Shelton said chess uses the same fundamental rank and file system used in real-life military strategies. The chessboard is broken down into coordinates, assigned from the lighter piece's perspective. The letters "a" through "h" are arranged from left to right indicating "files" and the numbers "1" through "8" are arranged in rows called "ranks." Each piece has a corresponding symbol (such as Q for queen or k for knight), as do moves such as "castling" and "checkmate," the game's



Joey Marchand, a 7-year-old Spangdahlem Elementary School student, bests his father, Staff Sgt. Greg Marchand, 52nd Security Forces Squadron, during a game at the base chess club Jan. 18. Marchand has been playing chess since last summer and says he can beat most "grown-ups." He practices new moves against his 9-year-old brother, Gregory, to improve his game.

final play. This aids in noting the initial position of the pieces and tracking their movement throughout the game.

Air Force competition level participation is contingent upon acceptance into the U.S. Chess Federation and victories at several levels of increasing difficulty.

"Once we get rated, we can go play at Ramstein, then on to the (U.S. Air Forces in Europe)-level championship," said Shelton. "After the USAFE level, players are invited to the Air Force championship competition, a chess camp at Andrews AFB in D.C."

According to Shelton, the play-offs include training by a grand master player. Those that triumph at the Air Force chess camp can be granted permissive TDY to compete against the sister services.

Shelton said chess was once a part of Russian military training, and is in certain regions, a part of the school curriculum there.

"It was thought that (military personnel) understanding the game of chess would make better strategists out of them," said Shelton. "It definitely improves analytical thinking and problem solving."

Shelton describes chess as "solving a moving puzzle" that's "easy to learn and difficult to master."

The group meets from noon to 3 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the base community activities center ballroom. An open tournament with door prizes takes place Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

The younger Shelton is apparently on his way to mastery, having just claimed his latest victim, fellow classmate Steven Watts, a 12-year-old student at Spangdahlem Middle School.

"Stop taking pictures of him taking out my pieces!" exclaimed Watts as his photo was snapped toward the close of the game. Onlookers erupted with laughter.



Sophomore Devon Gardner, Bitburg High School Barons, slams opponent, Mat Grehek, Ramstein High School, to the mat seconds after the start of the 130-pound match Saturday in the base fitness center.

Barons wrestlers pinned to second under Division I Ramstein Saturday

By Ethan Lake
Barons wrestling assistant coach

The Bitburg High School Barons wrestling team fell short of first place this past Saturday, though the team commanded a strong second with 208 points.

Division I Ramstein edged Bitburg with 248 points. Brussels came in a distant second with 118 points followed by SHAPE with 109, Mannhiem with 63, and Baumholder with 46.

It had been a long week for the Barons and it showed on the mat. The concentration and effort by the team to host a stand out tournament along with semester finals took its toll on its members at the worst possible time. However thanks to the efforts of the community and its generous volunteers, the tournament as a whole was a huge success.

"None of this would have been possible if it hadn't been for the support we received from the entire base," said Jeff Watts, Barons head coach. "We had folks from transportation and the 606th Air Control Squadron helping get the mats moved, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron members working on the lights and the 52nd Services Squadron let us use their facilities. Additionally, Armed Forces Network and the wing public affairs office helped get the word out, not to mention the donations from the commissary and other organizations and individuals. Of course the list could go on. However, a lot of thanks must go out to the wing's leadership for fostering and encouraging community involvement. From the top on down the 52nd Fighter Wing came together to put on what many visiting spectators called 'the best tournament seen in years.' I thank the community for a job well done."

Despite team shortcomings, the Barons put eight wrestlers in the championship finals. Keeping it home for the Barons, Devon Gardner took first place at 130 pounds, Jordan Watts at 171 pounds and Randy Van Ginkle at 275 pounds.

Coming in at honorable second were Danial Bruanl at 103



Freshman John Coker, Bitburg High School Barons, challenges competitor, Chris Barbe, Ramstein High School, in the 112 pound match Saturday.

pounds, Jon Coker at 112 pounds, Kyle McQuiston at 119 pounds, David Vialanova at 125 pounds and Jeremy Wooten. Rounding of the top four were Justin Carnahan at 119 pounds, Steve Gutschow at 135 pounds, Jonas Jensen at 140 pounds, Lance Hoffman at 145 pounds, and Ryan Warner at 160 pounds.

The Barons prepare for the last tournament of the season as they go head to head with three Division I schools at Ramstein, Germany, Saturday at 10 a.m. The Barons advance to Division II Championships at Mannheim, Germany, the following week.

Lady Barons sprain strains varsity play

JV team pluck Black Forest Falcons claiming four- and 10-point victories

By Denny Lemmon
Lady Barons basketball coach

It was a long hard weekend for the Bitburg High School Lady Barons basketball teams. On Friday they had to endure a long six-hour bus ride to the Black Forest Academy. Then, just before the start of the game, Center Nadia Parker sprained her ankle and was out of action for the weekend.

The varsity Lady Barons had a difficult time adjusting to playing without its All-European center and lost Friday 22-13 and again on Saturday 35-23. The junior varsity squad, under the direction of Coach Richard Carr, won Friday 20-16 and Saturday 29-19.

Varsity action

In the varsity game Friday evening, the Lady Barons played an inspiring defense holding the Black Forest Academy Falcons to just eleven points in the first half. Unfortunately, the Lady Barons had a difficult time generating much offense, scoring only three points in the icy cold first half. Senior captain Sabrina Blaus led the team offensively with six points. Tanja Moore added five.

On Saturday, the Lady Barons did better offensively as Tanja Moore scored 13 points, Erica Winters six and Carletta Hernandez four.

The defense around the basket was weaker than Friday night as the Falcons scored some rather easy baskets for the victory. Carletta Hernandez was the top rebounder with nine and Sabrina Blaus pulled down eight. Sophomore guard Erica Winters was hustling on defense making six steals and passing for two fine assists. Captain Chelsea Gavagan played strong defense throughout the weekend series and assisted in running the offense. The team is currently two wins and four losses in league play.

Freshman Carletta Hernandez, playing a double role with the varsity and junior varsity teams, led the JV Barons with 20 points in the two game series. Super sophomore Melodie Dupervall scored nine points while freshman Monica Bintz contributed eight.

Junior varsity action

The JV Lady Barons played a pressure defense that caused many turnovers and some easy transitions points. In Saturday's game the team demonstrated a balanced offensive attack as Crystal Vasquez scored four and Renee Flemmings, Jessica Renaud and Jazmine Winn each contributed two. The JV team has a glossy five win and one loss record.

This weekend the Lady Barons plays host to Vilseck High School for the last home games of the 2003 basketball season. The Friday night games take place in the Spangdahlem Air Base fieldhouse gym. The junior varsity girls start the action at 4 p.m., followed by the JV boys at 5:30 p.m. The varsity girls play at 7 p.m. and the varsity boys follow at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday morning, all games take place in the Bitburg Middle School gym beginning with the JV girls at 10 a.m., the JV boys at 11:30 a.m., the varsity girls at 1 p.m. and the varsity boys at 2:30 p.m.

Sharks take bite out of Baumholder meet, replacing best times with better

By Lisa Larkin
Eifel Sharks swimming coach

Earlier this month the Eifel Sharks took a bite out of Baumholder. On Jan. 11 the Sharks met in competition with teams from Kaiserslautern, Berlin, Weisbaden, Heidelberg and Rota, Spain. Many Eifel swimmers were able to replace best times with new ones.

For team members Alexander and Hannah Fowl, it was their first competitive meet. Overall the team enjoyed a good showing.

Everett Plocek had the best time in freestyle at 54.57. She also took fourth place

in backstroke, first in breaststroke with 1:07 and had first exhibition in the 25-meter fly. Alexander Fowl had a time of 1:16 in freestyle and 1:12 in backstroke for first meet. Alexandra Andren had the best time in freestyle at 43.46, took fourth in breaststroke with 51.87 and a best time of 1:49 in individual medley.

Sanna O'Sullivan took fourth in breaststroke. Hannah Fowl scored a time of 48.98 in freestyle and 55.98 in backstroke for her first meet. Alyssa Darden took second place in freestyle with best time of 1:11, second in

breaststroke and first in individual medley.

Amber Espinoza took third place in freestyle, second in butterfly with best time of 1:25 and fourth in individual medley. Aline Villanueva took fifth in backstroke. Ashley Sandau made seventh place in backstroke.

Amy Huguen scored seventh place in freestyle, fourth in breaststroke and fifth in individual medley with best time of 3:10. Nina Plocek took third in breaststroke with best time of 51.63 and fifth in individual medley with best time of 1:43.

The Sharks are now into the home stretch of their 2003 season. The team competed at Gielenkirchen, Germany, Jan. 25. Next, the Sharks swim at the Divisional meet Feb. 1-2 in Hohenfels. Feb.15-16, team members O'Sullivan, Andren, Espinoza, Darden, Huguen and the Plocek sisters, move on to the finals in Munich.

Youth interested in competitive swimming or adults interested in coaching for the Eifel Sharks can call Olga Andren at 06562-966812, Tina O'Sullivan at 06563-960742 or Laura Darden at 06561-604768 for details.